



Asami Hagiwara has been praised for her “tone-color palette of great warmth and nuanced richness” (Fuldaer Zeitung). Recent appearances include concerts in Austria, Brazil, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, and the U.S.A. She has been invited to perform in music festivals including the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, the Grieg Festival, Joutseno Art Summer, the Liszt-Garrison Festival, Mänttä Music Festival, and the PIANALE International Academy. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Piano at the Onondaga Community College (Syracuse, NY).

In addition to her wide range of performing repertoire from Baroque to contemporary music, Hagiwara specializes in works of Nordic composers, especially those of Edvard Grieg and Jean Sibelius. Her doctoral document, *Guide to the Published Solo Piano Music of Jea Sibelius*, provides an overview of Sibelius’s rarely performed 115 piano works. As an American-Scandinavian Foundation research fellow, she spent a year at the Sibelius Academy (Helsinki, Finland), which deepened her understanding of the Nordic sound and composers.

Most recently, Hagiwara was an Assistant Professor of Piano and the Chair of the Piano Area at the University of Minnesota Duluth. She also held several prior teaching positions as lecturer at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville (Platteville, WI), the Iowa State University (Ames, IA), and the University of Dubuque (Dubuque, IA), and was the Coordinator of the University of Iowa’s Pre-College Piano Conservatory (PCPC).

As a guest teacher, Hagiwara has been invited to music festivals including Encontro Internacional de Pianistas de Piracicaba (Piracicaba, Brazil), Encontro Internacional de Pianistas do Vale do Aço (Timóteo, Brazil), Northshore Summer Music Experience (Duluth, MN), the University of Iowa’s Youth Summer Camp (Iowa City, IA), and the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp (Twin Lake, Michigan). She formerly was the director of UMD Piano Day, an annual community outreach event, and the Northshore Summer Music Experience Piano Division. In addition, she frequently serves on competition and contest jury panels for organizations such as Edward Grieg Society, MTNA, NFMC, and Thursday Musical.

Hagiwara has been a recipient of American-Scandinavian Foundation Fellowship, Clara Rolland Award, Thomas J. Smith Award, and Gertraude Weber Gassman Award. Her former piano teachers include Erik T. Tawaststjerna at the Sibelius Academy, Ksenia Nosikova at the University of Iowa, William Heiles at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Marialena Fernandes at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, and Emilio del Rosario at the Music Institute of Chicago. www.asamihagiwara.com



Dr. Gary Fisher is a member of the faculty at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York, where he is a Lecturer in Piano and Instructor of Piano Literature. He was Coordinator of the Community Music Program from 2001 until 2020. He holds degrees from SUNY Buffalo (BFA, 1972), Boston University (MM, 1976) and the Eastman School of Music (DMA, 1994), and has received academic honors from each institution. His principal teachers have included Frina Boldt, Stephen Manes, Maria Clodes Jaguaribe, Jeffrey Kahane, David Burge and Leonard Shure, whose teaching assistant he was at the New England Conservatory.

While residing in the Boston area for many years, Dr. Fisher was Chair of the Faculty at the South Shore Conservatory; he also served as Dean of the Music Division at the Performing Arts School of Worcester. Between 1991 and 2001, he was a faculty member of the Community Education Division of the Eastman School of Music as well as Assistant to the Director. Throughout his teaching career, Dr. Fisher has enjoyed adjudicating and offering master classes for many music organizations in the Boston and upstate New York areas, where he has also been heard in a variety of solo and collaborative performances. His students have won top prizes in significant competitions held in the Rochester area, as well as state-wide. He has served in several positions in the New York State Music Teachers Association, including Chair of Lecture Forum, State Competitions Chair, Secretary and Vice-President for Conferences. Dr. Fisher was NYSMTA President from 2006 to 2008.